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CONFIDENTIAL.

THE PALACE,

MYSORE.

26th April 1921.

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I am directed to return File dated 31st March 1921, which was received back with your letter of April 16, and to say that His Highness approves of the proposal made by the First Member and recommended by you, that the "control of the supply of Ore and Flux for the Iron Works should be transferred to the Tata Iron and Steel Co." His Highness would like the terms settled with them as soon as possible.

As regards the proposal to terminate Dr. Smeeth's services, His Highness directs me to draw your attention to the fact that a definite extension of a year was given to Dr. Smeeth, and that too only a short time ago, and his extended term does not expire till 31st December next. His Highness feels doubtful whether it would be fair on the part of Government to terminate the engagement in the manner proposed, and the more so, when the Officer concerned is one who has served the State, for nearly 24 years, and is, in any case due to retire before long. The Government, instead of allowing him to retire honourably, would be doing him no little harm in sending him away as now proposed.

His Highness quite realises that Dr. Smeeth has not been able to accomplish the work allotted to him. Even granting that the fault was entirely his, His Highness would like some consideration shown to an old servant of the State. His Highness would, therefore, suggest that the following action may, if you see no objection to it, be taken in regard to this matter :-

In the first place, negotiations may, as already stated be opened with the Tatas as regards the supply of Ore and Flux. If their terms are found to be reasonable, they may be accepted and arrangements made to transfer the work to them as soon as practicable. Meantime, Dr. Smeeth may continue his efforts to

find the right kind of Ore, and to collect as much of it as he possibly can.

Secondly, if a satisfactory agreement is definitely reached with the Tatas in regard to the control and supply of Ore and Flux, Dr. Smeeth's services will become superfluous, and he may be relieved of this work, unless the Tatas wish to retain him in an advisory capacity for some time longer, or until his term of service expires. If the Tatas do not want him at all, then Dr. Smeeth may be given, as proposed, three months notice and a bonus calculated on the basis of his salary for the remaining period of his service, that is, upto December 31, and retired from Service. If, however, some work can be found for him in the Geological Department itself, which His Highness hopes may be possible to do, he ~~may be kept~~ on till his time actually expires. The bonus, if paid, would mean payment to him of a sum of Rs. 3,000/- or so more than what you and the Council have now recommended (this does not include his pension which would in any case be payable to him). His Highness feels that the Government should not, for the sake of Rs. 3000/- or 4000/-, terminate his engagement before its time, and thus lay themselves open to criticism. It would be better, he thinks, to pay him what he seems to be in fairness entitled to get, rather than send him home a dissatisfied and disappointed man.

His Highness would also suggest your having a talk with Dr. Smeeth at the appropriate time, and explaining to him the reasons which have rendered it imperative that other arrangements should be made for the supply of Ore etc.

To sum up the various suggestions of His Highness, made above :-

Dr. Smeeth may be continued in service and employed either in the Geological Department, or in an advisory capacity in connection with the Iron Works, if the Tatas require his services, until his present term expires, but he should be relieved of all responsibility with regard to the collection

of Ore etc. Failing this, he may be given three months notice, as proposed in the Council resolution, and also a bonus for the remaining period of his term, so that he may not be a loser financially.

Rajasevadhurina

Sirdar M. Kantaraj Urs, C.S.I.,

Bangalore.